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Security personnel cordon off area after a Kashmiri Pandit was shot dead by militants in Achan of Pulwama district on Sunday | ANI

KASHMIRI PANDIT ATM GUARD SHOT DEAD

In yet another targeted killing, terrorists on Sunday shot dead a 40-year-old Kashmiri Pandit man when he was on his way to a market in Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir. Sanjay Sharma was shot in the chest at point-blank range, barely 100 metres from his residence in Achan, around 11 am. Deputy Inspector General (DIG), South Kashmir Range, Rayees Bhat said it was a "planned attack". Political parties have condemned the killing.

CHHATTISGARH

Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools

Creating an education-friendly environment for children

School children in Chhattisgarh are getting excellent education in English medium. The chain of English medium schools started by the State Government is benefiting a large number of talented children belonging to the economically-weaker sections of society at the district headquarters and development block level. These schools have attained popularity in a very short time. The State Government is also starting Hindi medium schools under the Swami Atmanand schools apart from the English medium schools. These schools have world-class facilities.

There are 247 Swami Atmanand English medium schools and 32 Hindi medium schools that are currently being operated in the state, whereas 422 schools in the next academic session are being proposed. In the new proposed schools, 252 schools of Sarguja and Bastar will be included, so that children living in remote and distant zones can also study in the English medium. Considering the success of the English medium schools, the State Government is planning to launch English medium colleges in the next academic session.

The popularity of Swami Atmanand schools can be estimated from their widespread demand during Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's Bhent Mulaqat programmes and the fluent English spoken by the students of these schools. After the launch of these schools, parents of talented children belonging to lower-income groups are now relieved from the worries of paying exorbitant school fees in private schools. Swami Atmanand schools charge a nominal fee for superior-quality English medium education and provide facilities that match global standards, apart from a better educational environment.

Financial shortage not an obstacle anymore, children are getting excellent education

The main objective of the State Government for starting these schools is to provide quality education to the talented students of the state so that they can stand shoulder to shoulder with the students of other states in competitive exams. The CBSE syllabus is being taught in all the Swami Atmanand English and Hindi medium schools.

The Swami Atmanand Schools were launched on July 3, 2020. About 2.5 lakh children are studying in 247 schools launched under this scheme. These schools have ultramodern libraries, language labs, computers, and science labs apart from facilities for sports like tennis and badminton.

BRINGING EQUALITY

Swami Atmanand schools

247

ENGLISH MEDIUM

32

HINDI MEDIUM

Number of child beneficiaries

2.5 lakh

Proposed number of schools in next financial year

439

Swami Atmanand (Tulendra Verma) was born in 1929 in Barbanda village of Raipur District. His father Dhaniram Verma was a school teacher and his mother Bhagyavati Devi was a homemaker. Having moved with his father to Wardha, Tulendra would visit Sevagram that was nearby and sing hymns and bhajans which impressed Mahatma Gandhi.

In 1951, having secured first rank in M.Sc (mathematics) and bagging a scholarship for higher studies at Cambridge University, he decided to stay back and serve the homeland as a civil servant. He changed his mind yet again and spent all his time at an ashram in Dhantoli, Pune, eventually taking sanyas. He would spend the evenings singing hymns and reading philosophical discourses from religious texts. People attending his discourses started to donate generously and in 1961, the state government granted him 93,098 sqft land for construction of an ashram. The ashram was inaugurated on April 13, 1962.

The beautiful Swami Vivekananda Ashram of Raipur that we witness today is the result of his hard work. Swami Atmanand dedicated his life to the people of Chhattisgarh and on the government's special request inaugurated the school of spiritual and moral education in Narayanpur.

He firmly believed education was a powerful tool to bring social transformation on a mass scale. His legacy continues to inspire generations.

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